

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-32 (previously canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A method for providing a user interface for an electronic device having a housing that includes a display, the method comprising:
providing a plurality of input elements on the housing arranged about a perimeter of the display, wherein the input elements are separate from the display;
displaying information in a foreground of the display;
displaying a plurality of control images in a background of the display, each control image indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device; and
positioning each control image in the background of the display immediately adjacent to a corresponding one of the input elements on the housing to associate the control image with the corresponding input element, wherein activation of one of the input elements initiates performance of the task indicated by the associated control image.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the plurality of input elements comprises a first pair of input elements positioned on opposite sides of the housing.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 further comprising:
defining a plurality of regions within the background of the display, wherein each defined region is positioned immediately adjacent to a separate one of the input elements; and
positioning each of the control images within one of the defined regions.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein each of the input elements comprise a button positioned on the housing.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.

41-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 further comprising:
loading a character set within the user interface of the electronic device, the character set including a plurality of individual characters;
dividing the character set into character subsets;
representing each of the character subsets as a separate control image;
receiving an activation signal from one of the input elements representing a selection of one of the character subsets;
narrowing a range of the individual characters within the character set to the selected character subset; and
repeating the dividing, representing, receiving, and narrowing operations until a selection of one of the individual characters is made.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for inputting control signals to an electronic device, the electronic device having a housing, a display and a plurality of input elements on the housing arranged about a perimeter of the display, wherein the input elements are separate from the display, the computer process comprising:

generating an information screen;

generating a control screen having a plurality of control images, each control image indicating a task to be performed by the electronic device;

positioning each control image in the control screen immediately adjacent to a corresponding one of the input elements on the housing to associate the control image with the corresponding input element, wherein activation of one of the input elements initiates performance of the task indicated by the associated control image;

combining the information screen and the control screen into a composite screen such that the information screen and the control screen appear in overlapping fashion; and

displaying the composite screen on the entire display.

56. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the computer process further comprises receiving an activation signal from one of the input elements.

57. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 56 wherein the computer process further comprises performing the task indicated by the control image associated with the input element after the activation signal is received.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the combining operation includes blending the information screen and the control screen such that the information screen appears in front of the control screen.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the computer process further comprises:

defining a plurality of regions within the control screen, wherein each defined region is positioned immediately adjacent to a separate one of the input elements; and
positioning each of the control images within one of the defined regions.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 55 wherein the computer process further comprises:

loading a character set, the character set including a plurality of individual characters;

dividing the character set into character subsets;

representing each of the character subsets as a separate control image in the control screen;

receiving an activation signal from one of the input elements representing a selection of one of the character subsets;

narrowing a range of the individual characters within the character set to the selected character subset; and

repeating the dividing, representing, receiving, and narrowing operations until a selection of one of the individual characters is made.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 63 wherein the electronic device comprises a watch.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the plurality of input elements further comprises a second pair of input elements positioned on opposite sides of the housing.